9: Natesa Sastri U-5 (no date) 1892
AW50 Badaga AW50

538 to be a near relation among the Baḍagas. Thus closes the third
(764) day of the funeral rites of the Baḍagas.

The third day's ceremony is a curious and significant ceremony. The lighting up of the fire inside the house and the handful of straw
764 brought from the outside thatch to kindle it are nothing but the
(783) simple ways of purifying a polluted house which the high-caste Hindus employ on various occasions. The wife mourning outside, while the grain is being turned up in the *Kerachi*, shows her grief at the idea that her lord had become a spirit among the departed spirits and that all his connection with this world has entirely
(783) ceased. The passing of the pots over the fire are means adopted to purify the vessels and the house after the pollution caused by the death. During the first two days of mourning the milk-house may not be entered, but on the third day it may be once more used. There the first rice is spread in order that it may acquire some of the purity of the spot and it is there that the feast of friends and relatives is held that is considered to be the most binding tie and the greatest token of friendship and caste union.

In the case of those who cremate the dead body the ceremony of the first day is almost the same as with those who bury, though there are certain differences. Up to the end of the confession the ceremonies are all the same. The car is taken to the cremation ground where a big fire has been lit and kept ready. At some little distance from the fire a spot is chosen for cremating the body, and at the place chosen a pit is dug. The pit is then filled up with firewood and the body to be cremated is placed over it. It is covered up with fuel.

When the corpse is placed on the funeral car it is sometimes placed with the cot also and sometimes without it. When it is
(768) taken to the funeral pile, it is taken also with the cot and some-
(556) times without it; when the former is done the cot also is cremated. Only well-to-do Baḍagas cremate the cot along with the dead body; in ninety-nine out of a hundred cases the cot is not cremated. If it is the body of a female the brother or brothers or some one of her blood relations tear up into three parts lengthwise a new cloth six cubits long and tie the pieces round the body in the region
(121) of the heart before placing it on the pile.* It is difficult to get the meaning of this custom from the Baḍagas, but we may guess

* This is termed *Likhaffwada*, meaning tying up tight.